

13729RRUS01U

TITLE: DUAL PROTOCOL GPRS MOBILE TERMINAL AND METHOD THEREFOR

INVENTORS:

5

JERRY MIZELL
4429 Risinghill Drive
Plano, TX 75024
Citizenship: USA

10

CURTIS PROVOST
3608 McCreary Road
Parker, TX 75002
Citizenship: USA

15

DAVID J. LAUSON
4806 Virginia Woods Drive
McKinney, TX 75070
Citizenship: USA

20


ASSIGNEE
NORTEL NETWORKS LIMITED
World Trade Center of Montreal
380 St. Antoine Street West, 8th floor
Montreal, Quebec H2Y 3Y4, Canada

25

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Service under 37 C.F.R. Sec. 1.10 addressed to: Box Provisional Patent Application, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on September 22, 2000.

Express Mailing Label No.:


James P. Harrison

30

TITLE: Dual Protocol GPRS Mobile Terminal and Method Therefor

SPECIFICATION
BACKGROUND

5

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application incorporates by reference and is
10 related to the following applications filed concurrently
herewith:

1. Attorney Docket Number 10957RRUS01U entitled:
15 GPRS Network and Method Therefor
2. Attorney Docket Number 13725RRUS01U entitled: Dual
Protocol GPRS Message Center and Method Therefor
- 20 3. Attorney Docket Number 13727RRUS01U entitled:
Gateway GPRS Support Node and Method Therefor

1. Technical Field

The present invention relates generally to mobile
25 communication systems and more particularly, to general
packet radio services for delivering data over a circuit
switch telephone network.

2. Related Art

The general packet radio service (GPRS) is a new non-
30 voice value added service that allows information to be
sent and received across a mobile telephone network. It
supplements, or rides on top, of today's circuit switched
data and short message service networks. The theoretical
maximum speed of GPRS includes speeds of up to 171.2
35 kilobits per second (kbps). This maximum speed is
achievable in GPRS systems using all eight timeslots at

the same time in a time division multiple access (TDMA) context.

This speed is about three times as fast as data transmission speeds possible over today's fixed telecommunication networks and ten times as fast as current circuit switched data services on Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) standard TDMA networks. Thus, GPRS systems are advantageous in that they require less system resources to transmit a fixed amount of data in comparison to using a traditional circuit switched approach. By allowing information to be transmitted more quickly, immediately, and efficiently, across the mobile network, GPRS may well be a relatively less costly mobile data service compared to SMS and circuit switch data.

GPRS also facilitates instant connections in which information can be sent or received immediately as the need arises, subject to radio coverage. No dial up modem connection is necessary. GPRS, similar to some broadband connections for personal computers, often is referred to as being "always connected." Thus, another one of the advantages of GPRS is that data may be transmitted immediately, whenever the need arises. In contrast to circuit switched data in which a connection must be established to transmit a data packet or data file, GPRS operation is extremely efficient in those situations in which a small amount of data is to be sent.

As the emphasis of many designs today are to create wireless computer networks, and to connect data devices including personal computers to wireless transceivers and mobile terminals, such a system that provides
5 instantaneous response is very important for time critical applications, and, more generally, for the implementation of wireless computer networks.

For example, a remote credit card authorization system implemented in a wireless network can be greatly
10 improved if it is unnecessary for the customer to wait the amount of time that is required to establish a connection. Anyone that has waited at a cash register for credit authorization while a modem dials in and transmits account information can readily appreciate this
15 advantage.

Additionally, GPRS facilitates the use of Internet applications not only from personal computers, but also from appliances and machines. It is anticipated that, in the future, appliances will be designed to be coupled to
20 the Internet for control either onsite or remotely. While some people envision connecting these appliances to a network port by physical lines, it would clearly be advantageous to be able to connect such appliances to the Internet through a wireless link. GPRS will facilitate
25 the creation of Internet controlled appliance networks through a wireless medium.

As suggested before, GPRS involves overlaying a packet based air interface on an existing circuit switched wireless network. For example, the circuit switched wireless network may comprise a GSM network.

5 Accordingly, the user is given an option to utilize a packet based data service. In order to overlay a packet based air interface over a circuit switched network, the GPRS standard defines new infrastructure nodes to minimize the impact to existing networks in terms of

10 hardware and software.

One advantage of GPRS is that packet switching that results from the infrastructure nodes allows the use of GPRS radio resources only when users actually are sending or receiving data. Unlike traditional circuit switched

15 voice networks, a connection is not continuously reserved for a user for the intermittent transmission of data. This efficient use of scarce radio resources means that larger number of GPRS users can share the same bandwidth and be served from a single base station 216 or cell.

20 The actual number of users, of course, that may use the system at one time depends on the amount of data being transferred.

Short message service (SMS) is a service that is provided in wireless telecommunication networks that

25 enables short alphanumeric messages to be transmitted to and received from mobile telephones. Typically, a short

messaging service center (SMSC) is formed and connected to a wireless network to enable mobile telephones to exchange short text messages with other networks. Typically, a short message service message is transmitted
5 over a short message service channel (SMSCH). For example, in IS-136 networks, the SMSCH carries signaling information for set up and delivery of short alphanumeric messages from the cell site to the user terminal equipment. In IS-136, SMSCH is a logical subchannel of
10 the SMS point-to-point messaging, paging and access response channel, which is a logical channel of the digital control channel. The digital control channel (DCCH) is a signaling and control channel that is employed in cellular networks, more particularly, in time
15 division multiple access (TDMA) networks. The DCCH operates on a set of frequencies separate from those used to support the cellular conversations.

In current systems, either implemented or under design, a message center typically includes SMS
20 processing logic as well as communication protocol logic for signaling system number seven (SS7) wireline circuit switched telephone networks. SS7 networks utilize a circuit switched plane for carrying voice and a tandem control plane to setup the circuit switching as a part of
25 call setup. The message center typically transmit short message service messages over an SS7 network to a mobile

switching center (MSC) that, in turn, transmits the SMS message to a serving GPRS support node (SGSN). The SGSN, in turn, forwards the SMS message to the wireless network, and more particular, to the base station for
5 delivery to the destination mobile terminal.

It is desirable, however, to transition from an SS7-based network to a packet network, for example, one with an IP-based infrastructure. Economic and technical advantages, including speed of application development
10 and lower costs due to economies of scale are being realized in the IP industry because of the huge success of the Internet. In order to ease the transition to new network architectures, while also supporting the functionality provided by SMS, there is a need to provide
15 IP-based access to the message center. The current definition of the GPRS network architectures does not allow such IP-based access. Thus, as described before, SS7 telephone networks are used to transport SMS messages between the message center and the SGSN. It would be
20 advantageous, however, if a message center could transmit SMS messages to an SGSN by way of a data packet network such as the Internet.

Currently, GPRS capable phones are made to receive SMS messages in a legacy format with the expectation that
25 they will be routed through the SS7 phone systems to the serving GPRS support node for delivery to the mobile

terminal. If a network is developed that supports SMS message transmission to the GPRS elements by way of a data packet network such as the Internet, however, then it would be possible for a GPRS ready mobile terminal to
5 receive SMS messages in a data packet format. However, current mobile terminals do not support such a capability.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A system and method are provided for enabling a GPRS message center to transmit SMS messages over a data packet network, such as the Internet, to a serving GPRS support node. From there, the serving GPRS support node may deliver the SMS message to the SGSN and then to a dual protocol mobile terminal by way of a base station.

More specifically, a GPRS message center is modified to include an IP communication module in addition to an SMS message processing module and an SS7 communication module. A network port is coupled to the IP module to enable the message center to transmit SMS messages over an IP packet protocol to a gateway GPRS support node. An SMS proxy (SMSP) module is formed within the GGSN to receive and process SMS messages that were transmitted using an IP protocol. The GGSN, then places the SMS message within a GPRS tunneling protocol message for transmission over an IP network to the serving GPRS support node.

The serving GPRS support node, in one embodiment of the invention, transmits the SMS message in an IP protocol to the base station for delivery to the mobile terminal. In an alternate embodiment of the invention, the SGSN removes the IP headers to place the SMS message into a traditional SMS form for transmission through the logical link control (LLC) protocol layer. Thus, the present

invention facilitates the use of the Internet for delivery of SMS messages between a serving GPRS node and a GPRS message center in one of two different paths using one of three different forms or protocols.

5 With a system to support the delivery of dual SMS messages in one of two protocols, the invention particularly includes a dual protocol mobile terminal that is formed to receive SMS messages that are transmitted in a legacy format or in a data packet
10 format. In an alternative embodiment of the invention, a GPRS mobile terminal is formed to include logic for receiving SMS messages transmitted solely in a data packet format.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A better understanding of the present invention can be obtained when the following detailed description of the preferred embodiment is considered with the following drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a functional block diagram of a GPRS network.

FIG. 2 is a functional block diagram of a GPRS network according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 3 is a flow chart illustrating a method for delivering SMS messages through a GPRS network according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 4 is a flow chart illustrating a method for delivering SMS messages through a GPRS network according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 5 is a flow chart illustrating a method within a gateway GPRS support node for processing SMS messages.

FIG. 6 is a flow chart that illustrates the method performed by a serving GPRS support node for delivering SMS.

FIG. 7A is a functional block diagram of a mobile terminal formed according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 7B is a functional block diagram of an alternative embodiment of a mobile terminal according to the present invention.

5

FIG. 7B is a functional block diagram of an alternative embodiment of a mobile terminal according to the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a functional block diagram of a GPRS network. GPRS network 100 includes a GPRS message center 104 that is coupled to communicate with a mobile switching center 108 by way of an SS7 network line and to deliver short message service messages thereto. Mobile switching center 108 is coupled to communicate with a serving GPRS service node 112 also by way of an SS7 network line and to forward SMS messages thereto. The SGSN 112 is coupled to communicate with a wireless network for delivering SMS messages to mobile terminals such as mobile terminal 120. For the sake of simplicity, FIG. 1 shows SGSN 112 being connected to a base station 116. It is understood, however, that the wireless network further includes mobile switching centers and base station 216 transceiver systems (BTS) that have their traditional roles in establishing communications with mobile terminals 120.

Once base station 116 receives the SMS message for delivery to the mobile terminal 120, it transmits the message through an antenna in a cell area in which the mobile terminal 120 was last registered for delivery to a mobile terminal 120 over a wireless communication link.

Continuing to refer to FIG. 1, a gateway GPRS support node 124 includes network ports to receive GPRS

data packets from the Internet as well as from private data networks, which network ports receive the data packets in an IP protocol. The GGSN 124 then transmits the data packets in an IP protocol to SGSN 112. Thus, 5 SGSN 112 is operable to receive data packets in an IP format for transmission to a mobile terminal 120 by way of base station 116.

FIG. 2 is a functional block diagram of a GPRS network according to one embodiment of the present 10 invention. As may be seen, the network 200 of FIG. 2 includes a message center 204, a mobile switching center 208, an SGSN 212, a base station 216, and a mobile terminal 220, all coupled as described with respect to FIG. 1. Here in FIG. 2, however, the network 200 15 includes dashed lines for the SS7 network links between the message center 204, the MSC 208, and the SGSN 212 to reflect those links are there but are not used for the transport of SMS messages within network 200 according to the present invention (although they can be used).

20 Thus, as may be seen, a GGSN 224 includes an IP network port 228 having an address that is reserved for receiving SMS messages in an IP format from a message center 204. An IP port 206A within message center 204 is coupled to a data packet network comprising multiple 25 communication paths and routers. At least one of the

routers within the data packet network is coupled to an IP port 228 within gateway GPRS support node (GGSN) 224.

As may also be seen, GGSN 224 is coupled to communicate with a GPRS home location register (HLR) 232. 5 GPRS HLR 232 further is coupled to SGSN 212. The function of GPRS HLR 232 is to provide mobile terminal 220 location and profile information as needed to GGSN 224 and SGSN 212.

Typically, HLR information is organized and 10 processed in relation to a mobile ID number. Thus, a GGSN seeking profile or location information transmits a request to the HLR containing a mobile ID number. The HLR responds by transmitting the requested information. Before now, however, the GGSN has not generated queries 15 to the GPRS HLR 232 to obtain location information for the delivery of SMS messages. The present GGSN, however, must be able to determine that it has received an SMS message for delivery to a mobile terminal and must then query the GPRS HLR 232 to determine the destination SGSN 20 212 to which the SMS message should be forwarded.

As may be seen, both the GGSN and the SGSN communicate with GPRS HLR 232 to obtain information regarding mobile terminal 220. GGSN 224 communicates with HLR 232 to determine that the SMS message 236 is to 25 be sent to SGSN 212 based upon the last known location of mobile terminal 220. SGSN 212, however, may require

information about the capabilities of mobile terminal 220 so that it can appropriately determine the format of a message that is to be delivered to the mobile. For example, a mobile terminal 220 that is capable of receiving IP data packets would receive SMS messages transmitted in an IP data packet format. A mobile terminal 220 without such a capability, however, would receive an SMS message 236 from SGSN in a legacy SMS message 236 format.

10 Continuing to examine FIG. 2, the operation of network 200 for delivering a short message service message from message center 204 to mobile terminal 220 is as follows. IP module 206A communicates with SMS module 206B to determine that the message center 204 has a short message service message that needs transmitting to mobile terminal 220 by way of a data packet network. IP module 206A, responsive to determining the same, places IP header information around an SMS message 236 that is to be transmitted through network 200. Additionally, IP module 206A converts the SMS message 236 into an IP format (data packet format) for transmission through network 200. Thereafter, SMS message 236 is transmitted from an IP port 206A over an IP network to IP network port 228 of GGSN 224. IP port 206A specifically assigns address information to the packets that form the SMS message 236 to cause those packets to be routed directly

to IP network port 228. As is understood by those skilled in the art, SMS message 236 may actually comprise a plurality of data packets and may actually be transmitted over a plurality of IP network lines to the
5 specific address that causes them to be received at IP network port 228. The representation of one SMS message 236 being transmitted over one line between message center 204 and GGSN 224 is for the sake of simplicity.

When a message center 204 is processing an SMS
10 message 236 for delivery to a mobile terminal 220 and it has the option of transmitting the message by way of a data packet network as well as by way of an SS7 network, it must determine which path to employ. In one embodiment of the invention, the default mode is to
15 transmit by way of the data packet network unless a specified condition is realized. Such specified conditions include determine, from a mobile station ID, that the mobile terminal 220 is not data packet capable. Another specified condition includes determining that a
20 specified level of congestion or delay is being realized for transmissions that include, at least in part, the data packet networks. In an alternate embodiment of the invention, the message center 204 transmits SMS messages in a traditional manner as a default unless it
25 determines, from the mobile station ID, that the mobile terminal 220 is data packet capable and that the

corresponding subscriber profile states a preference for receiving SMS messages in a data packet format.

Upon receiving the SMS message 236 data packets, GGSN 224, and more particularly, an SMS Processing Module (SMSP) 240 processes the SMS data packet to continue routing the SMS message 236 to mobile terminal 220. SMSP 240 is formed in hardware in one embodiment of the invention. In another embodiment, however, the logic of SMSP 240 is defined by computer instructions that are executed by an internal processor of GGSN 224.

Initially, SMSP 240 determines whether the destination mobile terminal 220 has an active PDP context. To do so, it communicates with GPRS HLR 232 to determine not only whether the mobile terminal 220 has an active PDP context, but also to determine which SGSN is acting as a serving GPRS support node 212 for the mobile terminal 220. If mobile terminal 220 does have an active PDP context, for example, with SGSN 212, then SMSP 240 merely continues to forward the data packets containing the SMS message 236 to SGSN 212 using a GPRS tunneling protocol. Thus, as may be seen, GGSN 224 transmits SMS message 236 in a GDP protocol to SGSN 212. If mobile terminal 220 does not have an active PDP context, then GGSN 224, and more particularly, SMSP 240 initiates an active PDP context. As a part of determining whether mobile terminal 220 has an active PDP context, the

location of mobile terminal 220 and of initiating an active PDP context, SMSP 240 communicates with HLR 232 to obtain the necessary information.

SGSN 212, upon receiving SMS message 236 in the GPRS tunneling protocol may request and receive profile information from GPRS HLR 232. Thereafter, SGSN 212, and more particularly, an SMS module 244 formed within SGSN 212, transmits the SMS message 236 to base station 216 that, in turn, delivers the SMS message 236 to mobile terminal 220 over a wireless interface. As will be described in greater detail, SGSN 212 transmits the SMS message 236 to base station 216 in one of at least two different formats.

While the present invention creates a network that supports the transmission of SMS messages from a message center to an SGSN by way of a data packet network such as the Internet, the SGSN also can and will receive SMS messages from an SS7 format in a traditional manner. Accordingly, the inventive SGSN is coupled and formed to receive and process SMS messages received from a plurality of networks in a plurality of protocol defined formats. Thus, the SGSN further must be formed to determine which, of a plurality of formats, should be used for delivering the SMS message to the mobile terminal by way of a wireless network. For example, the SGSN must determine whether to forward the message in an

IP format or in a legacy format as it is likely to receive the message in either of these two formats. Thus, if necessary, the SGSN must convert a message from one format to another.

5 In the first format, the SMS message 236 is transmitted from SGSN 212 to base station 216 in an IP data packet format. In an alternate embodiment of the invention, established GPRS procedures for delivery of SMS messages through a logical link control (LLC) protocol layer are used for delivering the SMS message 10 236 from SGSN 212 to base station 216 (and vice versa).

FIG. 3 is a flow chart illustrating a method for delivering SMS messages through a GPRS network according to one embodiment of the present invention. The following method of FIG. 3 is illustrated with respect to 15 FIG. 2 for exemplary purposes. A GPRS message center 204 determines to transmit an SMS message over an IP network instead of an SS7 network. It then transmits an SMS message 236 to a gateway GPRS support node 224 using a packet protocol to a specified packet port address 228 20 reserved for receiving SMS messages (step 304). As has been described previously, the gateway GPRS support node 224 defines a specific port address that is exclusively for receiving SMS messages from a GPRS message center 25 204. Thus, when the message center 204 transmits a plurality of data packets forming an SMS message 236,

each of the packets include the specific port address within the GGSN 224 to cause IP routers (not shown) to route the packets thereto.

The data packets are then received at the specific port address and reformed into the initial SMS message 236. Thereafter, within the gateway GPRS support node 224, an SMS processing module 240 processes the received SMS message 236 (step 308). As a part of processing the received SMS message 236, the SMS processing module 240 receives the plurality of data packets that form the SMS message 236. It also analyzes the packets and determines an identity of the mobile terminal 220 to which the message is to be delivered. SMSP 240 also determines if the destination mobile terminal 220 to which the SMS message 236 is to be delivered has an active PDP context (step 312). The presence of an active PDP context indicates that the GGSN 224 has a delivery address or GTP tunnel for the SGSN 212 serving the mobile. In the described embodiment, the SMSP 240 queries GPRS HLR 232 to determine whether there exists an active PDP context for the mobile terminal 220.

If the destination mobile terminal 220 does not have an active PDP context, the GGSN 224 initiates a network requested PDP context activation (step 316). The procedure, as outlined in the GPRS standards, consists of the GGSN 224 contacting the GPRS HLR 232 to retrieve

location information for the mobile terminal 220 including the current SGSN 212 serving the mobile terminal 220. The GGSN 224, upon receiving this information, initiates a GTP tunnel and PDP Context
5 Activation with the SGSN 212. This step, of course, is optional according to whether the destination mobile terminal 220 has an active PDP context.

Thereafter, once an active PDP context has been established or it is determined to already be in place,
10 the gateway GPRS support node 224, and more particularly, the SMSP 240 therewithin, forwards the SMS message 236 to the serving GPRS support node 212 (step 320). The serving GPRS support node 212 is the one that is coupled to a base station 216 for the cell in which the mobile
15 terminal 220 is located.

The gateway GPRS support node 224 forwards the SMS message 236 to the serving GPRS support node 212, in one embodiment of the present invention, utilizing a GPRS tunneling protocol wherein the message is transmitted in
20 an IP packet format. Once the serving GPRS support node 212 receives the message, it forwards the message to the base station 216 for delivery to the mobile terminal 220 (step 324). Within the mobile terminal 220, the received SMS message 236 then is processed to remove the IP packet
25 headers of the IP data packets, and then reconstructs the SMS message 236 and then transmits it to an internal SMS

processing module or circuitry (step 328). As is understood by those skilled in the art, the SMS processing module within the mobile terminal 220 may be formed either in hardware or logically by processor-
5 executed software.

FIG. 4 is a flow chart illustrating a method for delivering SMS messages through a GPRS network according to one embodiment of the present invention. The following method of FIG. 4 is illustrated with respect to
10 FIG. 2 for exemplary purposes. A GPRS message center 204 transmits an SMS message 236 to a gateway GPRS support node 224 using a packet protocol to a specified packet port defined within the gateway GPRS support node 224 (step 404). As has been described previously, the
15 gateway GPRS support node 224 defines a specific port address that is exclusively for receiving SMS messages from a GPRS message center 204. Thereafter, within the gateway GPRS support node 224, an SMSP 240 processes the received SMS message 236 (step 408). As a part of
20 processing the received SMS message 236, the SMSP 240 determines if the destination mobile terminal 220 to which the SMS message 236 is to be delivered has an active PDP context (step 412) The presence of an active PDP context indicates that the GGSN has a delivery
25 address or GTP tunnel for the SGSN serving the mobile.

If the destination mobile terminal 220 does not have an active PDP context, the GGSN initiates a network requested PDP context activation (step 416). This step, of course, is optional according to whether the

5 destination mobile terminal 220 has an active PDP context. Thereafter, once an active PDP context has been established or it is determined to already be in place, the gateway GPRS support node 224, and more particularly, the SMS proxy module there within, forwards the SMS

10 message 236 to the serving GPRS support node 212 (step 420). The serving GPRS support node 212 is the one that is coupled to a base station 216 for the cell in which the mobile terminal 220 is located. The gateway GPRS support node 224 forwards the SMS message 236 to the

15 serving GPRS support node 212, in one embodiment of the present invention, utilizing a GPRS tunneling protocol wherein the message is transmitted in an IP packet format.

After receiving the SMS message 236 from the gateway

20 GPRS support node 224, the serving GPRS support node 212 strips the IP header information that was formed as a part of the IP data packets that comprise the SMS message 236 and reforms the data packets in their proper order to recreate the SMS message 236 (step 424). The serving

25 GPRS support node 212 then transmits the SMS message 236 to the mobile terminal 220 using legacy GPRS protocol

procedures (step 428). Finally, the SMS message 236 is received by the mobile terminal 220 and is processed by an SMS processing module formed within the mobile terminal 220 (step 432). The SMS message 236 processing
5 module may be formed either within hardware or within logic defined by computer instructions that are executed by a processor within the mobile terminal 220.

FIG. 5 is a flow chart illustrating a method within a gateway GPRS support node for processing SMS messages. The following method of FIG. 5 is illustrated with
10 respect to FIG. 2 for exemplary purposes. Initially, a gateway GPRS support node 224 receives an SMS message 236 in a packet protocol from a GPRS message center 204 at a specified port that is for receiving SMS messages (step
15 504). Thereafter, the gateway GPRS support node 224 extracts the mobile station ID (step 508) and determines whether the mobile terminal 220 has an active PDP context (step 512). If the mobile terminal 220 does not have an active PDP context, the gateway GPRS support node 224
20 queries a GPRS home location register (GPRS HLR 232) to obtain mobile terminal 220 location information (step 516). Responsive thereto, the gateway GPRS support node 224 receives mobile terminal 220 location information from the GPRS HLR 232 (step 520). Thereafter, the
25 gateway GPRS support node 224 initiates a PDP context activation procedure for the serving GPRS support node

212 that is coupled to a base station 216 that is in communication with the mobile terminal 220 (step 524). Thereafter, the gateway GPRS support node 224 forwards the SMS message 236 to the serving GPRS support node 212
5 for delivery to the mobile terminal 220 (step 528). In one embodiment of the present invention, the SMS message 236 is forwarded to the serving GPRS support node 212 using a GPRS tunneling protocol.

FIG. 6 is a flow chart that illustrates the method
10 performed by a serving GPRS support node for delivering SMS messages according to one embodiment of the present invention. The following method of FIG. 6 is illustrated with respect to FIG. 2 for exemplary purposes. Referring now to FIG. 6, a serving GPRS support node 212 initially
15 receives data packets from a gateway GPRS support node 224 in an IP data packet format (step 604). In one embodiment of the present invention, the data packets are received using a GPRS tunneling protocol. With respect to the data packets, in one embodiment of the invention,
20 the data packets comply with an Internet protocol and have Internet protocol defined headers. Thereafter, the serving GPRS support node 212 determines that the packets received, in one embodiment, in the GPRS tunneling protocol, contain data packets that comprise at least one
25 SMS message 236 (step 608). As an optional step, the serving GPRS support node 212 obtains user profile

information from a GPRS HLR 232 wherein the user profile is for the mobile terminal 220 that is to receive the SMS message 236 (step 612). Thereafter, the serving GPRS support node 212 examines the user profile to determine a preferred message delivery method (step 616). After analyzing the user profile for the destination mobile terminal 220, the SGSN determines whether the destination mobile profile calls for SMS messages to be delivered in an IP data packet protocol format (step 620). By way of example, a preferred message delivery method can comprise either delivery in an IP format or in a traditional legacy SMS message 236 format. Responsive thereto, the message is transmitted to the mobile terminal 220 having the IP headers in an IP packet format if that is the format specified in the profile (step 624). If not, then the IP header information is removed, the SMS message 236 is reconstructed, and is transmitted to the mobile terminal 220 using traditional or legacy transmission forms and protocols (step 628).

FIG. 7A is a functional block diagram of a mobile terminal formed according to one embodiment of the present invention. Referring now to FIG. 7A, a mobile terminal 700 includes a microphone 704 and a speaker 706 for receiving and playing audio, respectively. Additionally, mobile terminal 700 includes an audio processor module 708 that is coupled to receive

microphone inputs from microphone 704 and to produce audio sound for playback to a user through speaker 706. Mobile terminal 700 further includes a signal processor 710 for transmitting and receiving wireless communication
5 signals.

In addition to the audio processing and signal processing provided by modules 708 and 710, mobile terminal 700 further includes an SMS processing module 712 for processing SMS messages that are received in an
10 IP data packet format. It is understood, of course, that the SMS processing module 712 is not limited just to Internet protocol data packets but can include modules for processing data packets formed under different protocols or formats. Mobile terminal 700 further
15 includes a legacy SMS message processing module 714 that is for processing SMS messages that are received by mobile terminal 700 which messages were transmitted using a legacy form or protocol. In one embodiment of the invention, legacy SMS processing module 714 processes
20 only those SMS messages that were transmitted using a legacy protocol for SMS messages. Thus, any messages transmitted using a data packet protocol are completely processed by module 712. In another embodiment of the invention, however, data packet SMS processing module 712
25 merely serves to receive an SMS message transmitted in a data packet format and to convert the SMS message to a

legacy format for processing by legacy SMS module 714. In this embodiment of the invention, module 712 may also be used for converting any type of message or data packet stream transmitted in an IP format into another format
5 for interpretation and processing by mobile terminal 700.

In addition to the aforementioned modules, mobile terminal 700 includes a memory module 716 and a logic unit 718. Logic unit 718 defines the operational logic of the mobile terminal 700 while memory 716 is used to
10 store data and operational parameters.

In one embodiment of the invention, mobile terminal 700 is formed with hardware based state machines as is implied by the system shown in FIG. 7A. Accordingly, for example, the logic of logic unit 718 is formed in
15 hardware using traditional logic circuitry that defines the desired operational functionality. Thus, the methodology illustrated in the preceding flow charts that relate to the mobile terminal 220 are implemented by the hardware within logic unit 718 or the other logic units
20 such as the SMS message processing modules 712 and 714.

FIG. 7B is a functional block diagram of an alternative embodiment of a mobile terminal according to the present invention. More specifically, mobile terminal 750 is one that is largely a software based
25 system whose operational logic is defined by internally stored software and is executed by an internal processor.

More specifically, mobile terminal 750 includes a processor 752 that is coupled to an internal bus 754 that in turn is coupled to memory 756. Memory 756 defines temporary buffers for storing data as well as memory portions for defining and permanently storing computer instructions that create the operational logic defined herein this application according to the present invention. For example, memory 756 includes computer instructions that, when executed by processor 752, enable the mobile terminal 750 to receive data packets having header information and to determine that the data packets form an SMS message 236 and, accordingly, to create the SMS message 236 for processing.

Thus, the computer instructions further define logic for processing the SMS messages. For example, in one embodiment of the present invention, memory 756 includes computer instructions that prompt the processor to remove the header information from a plurality of received data packets and to create an SMS message. Thereafter, the SMS processing logic is defined by computer instructions also stored within memory 756.

The bus controller 758 serves to control transmissions over the internal bus 754 to enable processor 752 to receive and execute the computer instructions stored within memory 756. Additionally, as may be seen, an audio processor 760 is coupled to

internal bus 754. In turn, audio processor 760 is coupled to a microphone 762 and to a speaker 764 for receiving and playing audio, respectively. Additionally, mobile terminal 750 includes at least one transceiver port 766 that is coupled to an antenna for receiving and transmitting wireless communication signals.

While a mobile terminal 750 formed according to the present invention may be implemented in software that is to be executed by an internal processor as demonstrated in the system of FIG. 7B or by hardware, such as the logic hardware modules illustrated in FIG. 7A, it is understood that either embodiment implements the operational logic defined herein in this application according to the present invention. In either case, the mobile terminal 700 or 750 is operable to receive SMS messages in a data packet format and to reconstruct the originally generated SMS message for the user of the respective mobile terminal. Thus, as may be seen, the mobile terminal 700 and 750 enable a user to receive SMS messages transmitted from a GPRS network in a data packet format.

Each embodiment of a mobile terminal as shown in Figures 7A and 7B includes a mobile terminal formed to receive SMS messages either in a legacy or in a data packet format. Additionally, however, the logic defined within the mobile terminals also is formed to originate

SMS messages. Accordingly, the logic formed within enables the mobile terminal to transmit the SMS messages either in a data packet format or in a legacy SMS message format. For the embodiment in which the SMS is transmitted in a data packet format, the mobile terminal is formed to insert an IP address of a message center so that the data packets, when transmitted onto the Internet, may be routed and delivered to the message center.

10 While the invention is susceptible to various modifications and alternative forms, specific embodiments thereof have been shown by way of example in the drawings and detailed description. It should be understood, however, that the drawings and detailed description thereto are not intended to limit the invention to the particular form disclosed, but on the contrary, the invention is to cover all modifications, equivalents and alternatives falling within the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined by the claims. As may be seen, the described embodiments may be modified in many different ways without departing from the scope or teachings of the invention. For example, any combination of the described methods may be combined to create an inventive system that reduces the amount of unwanted calls. The mobile terminal 220 as well as the GGSN and SGSN of the present invention may be formed with state

13729RRUS01U

machines in hardware, out of processors based systems
that execute stored software instructions, or a
combination thereof. In general, any system that defines
the novel operational logic defined herein this
5 application is included as a part of the present
invention.

13729RRUS01U